

CHAPTER 16

SALUTE BATTERY

Ceremonies did not originally use field artillery as a salute battery. In the 19th century, branches of service were lined up from right to left: infantry, field artillery, and cavalry, respectively. Field artillery lined up their guns but did not fire them. When honors began to be fired in ceremonies, the guns were moved out of the formation to avoid injury to other elements of the formation.

16-1. PREPARATION

The salute battery should arrive at the ceremonial site early enough to position their pieces before the arrival of units on the ready line.

a. The pieces are positioned downwind from the ceremony site with the muzzles pointing away from the reviewing stand. When possible, the opened trails are two steps to the rear of the final line and the number six piece is positioned twelve steps from the left flank unit. Other pieces are positioned about four steps apart (measure from inside wheels) and on line with number six.

b. Once the pieces are in position, the battery is formed to the left of the number one piece and in front of the line so that the number six and three sections are on the final line (Figure 16-1).

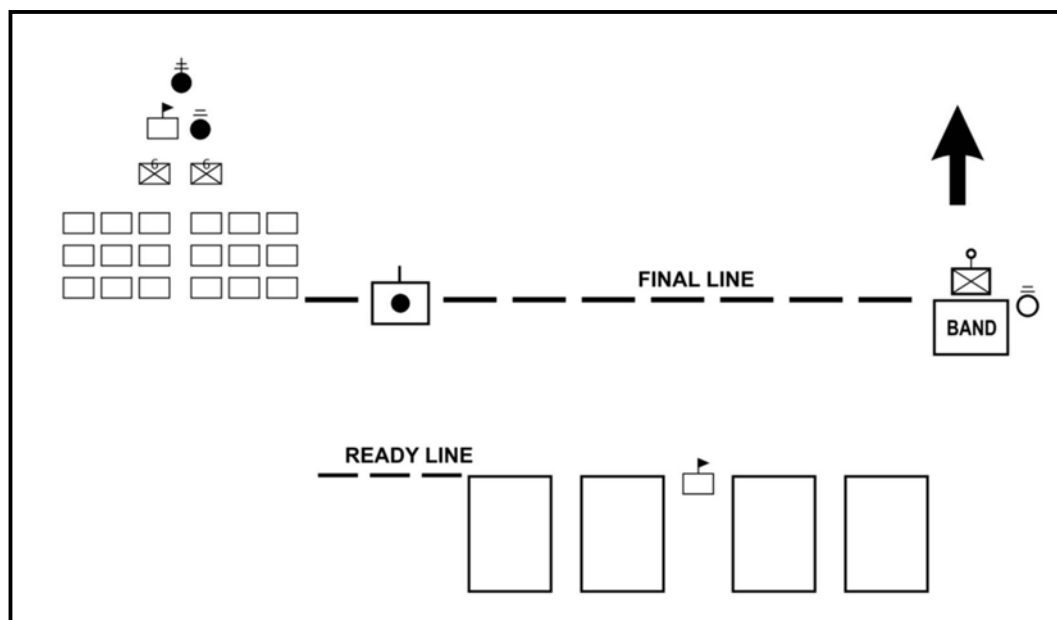


Figure 16-1. Position of salute battery and personnel before the review.

16-2. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS AND INDIVIDUAL ACTIONS

The sequence of events and individual actions necessary to conduct a salute battery are described herein.

a. **Formation of Troops.** On hearing the band sound *Attention*, the battery commander faces about, commands **Battery, ATTENTION**, and again faces about.

(1) On completion of the adjutant's call, the battery commander *faces about* and commands **Right, FACE**. He then commands **Section, POST**.

(2) The section chiefs in reverse sequence (6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1) command **Forward, MARCH** or **Column Half Right, MARCH**. The sections march forward along the final line and halt when centered on the piece.

(3) The battery commander faces to the left and commands (himself and his staff) **Column Half Right, MARCH**. They march forward (inclining as necessary) so that when halted the battery commander is six steps from and centered on the firing battery. The section chief and the counter should be centered and three steps to the rear of the commander. The executive officer is on line with the guidon bearer.

(4) When the battery commander has halted his staff, he faces to the right and commands **Left, FACE**. Then he commands **Dress right, DRESS; Ready, FRONT; and Parade, REST** (for large reviews, the command **AT EASE** may be substituted for **Parade, REST**). The commander then *faces about* and executes *Parade Rest*.

b. **Presentation of Honors.** When the commander of troops has directed *Order Arms* (adjutant has taken his post), the battery commander faces about and commands **Order, ARMS**. He then directs **FIRE THE SALUTE** and faces about.

(1) The battery commander quietly commands (himself and the guidon bearer) **Present, ARMS** and **Order, ARMS**, as appropriate.

(2) The executive officer, counter, and chief of the firing battery face about. The executive officer commands **Cannoneers, POST**. The cannoneers immediately move to their firing positions.

(3) The executive officer commands **With blank ammunition** (pause), **LOAD**. He then commands **STAND BY, NUMBER ONE**. As each piece is ready to fire, the section chief raises his arm (nearest the executive officer) and looks at the executive officer.

(4) When all section chiefs have indicated they are ready (arm raised), the executive officer raises his right arm and looks at the commander of troops. The commander of troops takes the raised arm as the signal that the battery is ready to fire. He then faces about and commands (himself and his staff) **Present, ARMS**.

(5) As the commander's hand touches his headgear, the executive officer signals the first piece to fire. The executive officer drops his arm to a horizontal position and then raises it back to a vertical position for each round. Rounds are fired at three-second intervals for normal honors and five-second intervals for funerals (AR 600-25).

(6) During the *Salute*, as the second to last round is fired, the counter faces about and announces **ELEVEN**. As the next to last round is fired, the chief of the firing battery *Faces About* and announces **TWELVE**. This is the signal for the executive officer to fire one more round.

(7) During the firing, each section immediately reloads after each round is fired and is prepared to fire in case of a misfire. When the last round has been fired, the executive officer signals **CEASE FIRE** and then signals **UNLOAD**.

(8) When all pieces are unloaded and the cannoneers are at *Attention*, the executive officer commands to the rear of the piece, **FALL IN** (cannoneers automatically fall in at *Dress Right*); he then commands **Ready, FRONT** and **Parade, REST**. When all sections are back in position on the final line, the executive officer faces about.

c. **Inspection.** As the reviewing party approaches piece number six, the battery commander faces about and commands **Battery, ATTENTION**. He then faces to the front and (over his right shoulder) commands **Eyes, RIGHT**.

(1) The battery commander and executive officer execute *Eyes Right* and *Salute*. The guidon bearer executes *Eyes Right* and *Present Guidon*. All others execute *Eyes Right* and follow the reviewing officer, turning the head until facing to the front.

(2) When the reviewing party has passed the last piece, the battery commander commands **Order, ARMS** for himself, the executive officer, and the guidon bearer. He then faces about. When the reviewing party has cleared the right rear of his unit, he then commands **Parade, REST**, faces about, and assumes *Parade Rest*.

d. **Honors to the Nation.** The battery executes appropriate movements on command or directives by the commander of troops.

e. **Remarks.** The battery executes appropriate movements on command or directives by the commander of troops.

f. **March in Review.** On the command or directive to **PASS IN REVIEW**, the battery commander faces about and commands **Parade, REST**. He then faces about and assumes *Parade Rest*.

g. **Conclusion.** When the band begins the eight-bar drum beat (before “The Army Goes Rolling Along”), the battery commander faces about and commands **Battery ATTENTION**. He then faces about. When the band has finished playing the music, the battery commander faces about and commands **REST**.